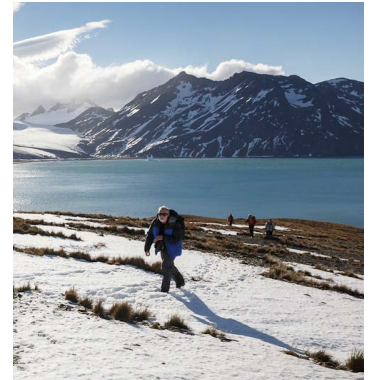


Expedition Notes IN SHACKLETON'S FOOTSTEPS



Welcome Aboard!

"I chose life over death for myself and my friends... I believe it is in our nature to explore, to reach out into the unknown. The only true failure would be not to explore at all." - Ernest Shackleton

Thank you for choosing Aurora Expeditions for your voyage to Antarctica, South Georgia & the Falkland Islands/Malvinas! This is a special voyage that will commemorate the life of Shackleton as we come up to the centenary of his famous, life-saving journey across South Georgia to rescue his 22 crew stranded on Elephant Island. We'll follow his journey, offering a small group the chance to cross South Georgia in Shackleton's footsteps, recreating his epic adventure.

These notes have been designed to help you prepare for your upcoming expedition and what you are likely to experience. Our emphasis is on unique wildlife encounters, exploring pristine landscapes, visiting sites of historical and scientific significance. Your safety is our priority, closely followed by showing you the best Antarctic experience possible!

Please remember that the enclosed itinerary is merely a guide. All of our voyages are expeditionary, which means no two voyages are ever the same and there is always an element of the unexpected. Our itineraries will vary due to weather and sea conditions, as well as to take advantage of spontaneous opportunities and impromptu wildlife displays.

Please take the time to read this pre-departure information prior to departing for your voyage. If you have any further questions or wish to book flights, accommodation, tours and transfers not included with the voyage, please do not hesitate to contact your dedicated Reservations Consultant or your travel agent.

Aurora Expeditions
P +61 2 9252 1033
F +61 2 9252 1373
E info@auroraexpeditions.com.au

Voyage Code: ASG73
Dates: 7 to 24 March 2018
Duration: 17 nights / 18 days
Embark: Ushuaia, Argentina
Disembark: Santiago OR Punta Arenas
Ship: Polar Pioneer

Important information

Terms and Conditions Please read our terms and conditions carefully to ensure you understand what is included in the voyage cost as well as any fees that may be applicable in case you are required to cancel your voyage.

Please remember that the enclosed itinerary is merely a guide. While every effort will be made to follow the itinerary provided, in the event of political problems or natural disturbances which are beyond our control and prevent our travelling to a particular area, we reserve the right to substitute an alternative activity for that section of the voyage. It is unlikely to happen, but itineraries are subject to change and this is all part of the adventure of travelling.



Expedition Notes

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Itinerary overview

Day 1	Ushuaia & Beagle Channel
Days 2-3	Drake Passage
Days 4-7	Weddell Sea & Antarctic Peninsula
Day 8	Elephant Island
Day 9-11	At sea
Days 11-15	South Georgia
Days 16-17	At sea
Day 18	Falkland Islands/Malvinas

Voyage Highlights

Antarctica

- Explore the most accessible and wildlife-rich region of Antarctica
- Daily shore visits and Zodiac cruises offer close encounters with penguins, whales, seals and sea birds.
- Visit historic research huts and working scientific stations
- Be surrounded by massive icebergs and cruise past ancient glaciers
- Enjoy the pristine beauty and vast landscapes
- Witness the endless sunlight of the midnight sun
- Learn about Antarctica's unique geology, history and wildlife from our expert team
- Kayakers will glide through narrow sheltered waterways and fjords, paddle amongst ice floes and drift quietly alongside wildlife.

South Georgia

- Witness the incredible wildlife of South Georgia, one of the greatest wildlife concentrations on the planet
- Visit some of the world's largest king penguin rookeries and search for wandering albatross on nests
- See beaches thick with elephant and fur seals
- Cruise past Elephant Island's dramatic north coast (weather permitting)

- Trace the final leg of Sir Ernest Shackleton's perilous journey from Fortuna Bay to Stromness
- Pay your respects to the great explorer at a visit to his gravesite at Grytviken.
- A small group will have the opportunity to trek across South Georgia as part of our Alpine Crossing.

Complimentary Polar Jacket ★

Each passenger will receive their very own Aurora Expeditions waterproof multi-purpose jacket to use on your voyage. You will receive a link via email prior to your departure to view sizing options and to order your jacket, which will be ready and waiting for you at the start of your voyage.

Voyage Inclusions

- Luggage transfer from hotel in Ushuaia to *Polar Pioneer* on day of boarding.
- Transfer from Polar Pioneer to Stanley airport, including tour of Stanley
- Flight from Stanley to Punta Arenas OR Santiago (no reduced fare for finishing in Punta Arenas)
- Accommodation during the voyage
- All meals, snacks, tea and coffee during the voyage
- All shore excursions and Zodiac (inflatable boat) cruises
- Educational lectures and guiding services from our expert team
- Access to our on board doctor and basic medical services
- Free gumboot hire during the voyage
- Daily cabin service
- An Aurora Expeditions' multi-purpose waterproof jacket
- Comprehensive pre-departure information
- Professionally produced voyage journal (one per booking)
- Port taxes and charges
- All entry fees to historic landings sites.



Expedition Notes

IN SHACKLETON'S FOOTSTEPS



Voyage Exclusions

- International or domestic flights to or from ship, unless specified
- Transfers not mentioned in the itinerary
- Airport arrival or departure taxes
- Visa, passport, and vaccination charges
- Travel insurance or emergency evacuation charges
- Hotels and meals not included in itinerary
- Optional excursions not included in the itinerary
- Optional activity surcharge. Please contact us if you wish to book any optional activities, such as sea kayaking
- All items of a personal nature including but not limited to: alcoholic beverages and soft drinks, laundry services, personal clothing, medical expenses, gratuities, and email or phone charges.

Travelling in South America

South America is a vibrant and exciting place to travel, however please remember that parts of South America will not have the same level of standards or services that you are used to at home – especially. It is common for travel arrangements to not always go as planned, so it is important that you are prepared for change and flexible if a situation arises. Prior to your departure, in your final documents, you will be provided with a detailed list of emergency contacts and numbers, should you require any assistance during your trip.

Getting To and From Your Voyage

Our Reservations Consultants or your travel agent can assist you with booking your flights to and from your voyage, as well as any additional pre and post touring options around South America. To discuss your options or for a quote contact your travel agent or Aurora Travel Agency Services on +61 2 9252 1033 or free call (Australia only) 1800 637 688 or email us to info@auroraexpeditions.com.au

Transfers

Transfers in Ushuaia and Santiago are NOT included in your expedition cost. In Ushuaia, the port is a short walk from the town centre and most hotels, alternatively Aurora Expeditions can assist you in organising pre-paid transfer from AU\$30 per person. Transfers in Santiago start from approximately AU\$55, per person. If you would like to arrange a pre-paid transfer, please contact us at +61 2 9252 1033 or email travel@auroraexpeditions.com.au at least three months prior to your expedition departure.

Taxis are usually available in most towns and cities throughout South America; however, Aurora Expeditions cannot guarantee that they will be available at all times.

Flights

For international flights please ensure you arrive at the airport at least three hours before your scheduled flight. For domestic flights please arrive at least two hours before your flight. Please check with your Reservations Consultant or travel agent regarding your airline's baggage allowance.

Arriving in Ushuaia

We strongly recommend you arrive into Ushuaia the day prior to your voyage departure date to avoid any possible flight or luggage delays. To organise any accommodation, transfers or tours in Ushuaia contact your travel agent or Aurora Expeditions on +61 2 9252 1033 or free call (Australia only) 1800 637 688 or email info@auroraexpeditions.com.au

Our preferred hotel in Ushuaia is:

Mil 810 Ushuaia Hotel
25 de Mayo 245
Ushuaia
Tierra del Fuego
Argentina
www.hotel1810.com

Please contact us for rates.



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Luggage Collection

Aurora Expeditions will arrange for your luggage to be collected from your hotel in Ushuaia on the day of your voyage departure. Please ensure all luggage is dropped at your hotel reception prior to 9:00am. All valuables should be kept in your hand luggage.

Flights from Stanley, Falkland Islands/Malvinas to Santiago or Punta Arenas

A flight from Stanley to Punta Arenas or Santiago is included in the cost of your voyage. If you wish to spend time exploring Patagonia it is possible to break your flight and disembark in Punta Arenas.

Please advise Aurora Expeditions if you wish to break your flight, otherwise you will not be allowed to disembark the aircraft in Punta Arenas.

Please note: The remainder of the airfare (Punta Arenas to Santiago leg) will be forfeited.

If you wish to stay on in the Falkland Islands after your voyage, Aurora Expeditions will be happy to assist in rebooking your flight, pending availability.

Flights between Stanley and Punta Arenas or Santiago operate once a week, on a Saturday only. Please ensure you confirm your arrangements on the Falkland Islands as early as possible to avoid disappointment.

The flight from the Falkland Islands to Punta Arenas or Santiago is considered a domestic flight, therefore, duty free is not available.

The Falkland Islands airport is based at the Mount Pleasant Military Complex and is not a commercial airport. Given this, you may experience delays in arrival and departure processes. We apologise in advance if you experience these delays.

Shackleton Commemorations

When Ernest Shackleton set off from South Georgia in December 1914, his goal was to lead the first expedition to cross Antarctica.

Instead, his ship *Endurance* was beset in Weddell Sea pack ice and, nine-months later, crushed. Only Shackleton's phenomenal leadership and the skills of men like Frank Worsely, Frank Wild and Tom Crean saved all 28 men.

Our special program of on-board events includes an exhibit of Frank Hurley's Antarctic images, a commemorative dinner, reading from Shackleton's journal and tributes to other fascinating Antarctic explorers.

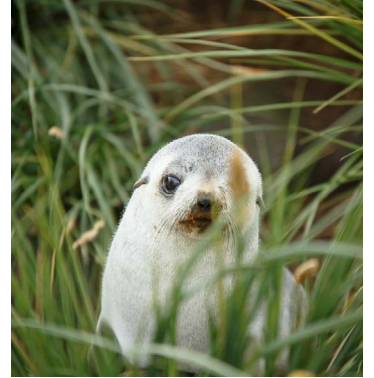
Best of all we plan visits to key historic sites (weather and ice permitting), including remote Elephant Island. We'll even have the chance to re-enact the final leg of Shackleton's epic trek from Fortuna Bay to Stromness whaling station (weather permitting), then toast 'The Boss' and Frank Wild beside their graves in Grytviken cemetery.

Expeditioners on all our Shackleton voyages receive a special commemorative patch and a customised all-weather jacket when they arrive on board. After the trip, a special hard-cover, full colour voyage journal will be sent as a memento of our historical adventure.



Expedition Notes

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Detailed Itinerary

Please Note: Itinerary may endure changes depending on weather, ice conditions and the movements of other vessels.

Day 1 - Embark Ushuaia

Having made your own way to Ushuaia (we strongly recommend you arrive the day before your voyage departure), you'll have time to explore the bustling community that lays claim to being the world's most southerly town. Sitting beneath the spectacular mountains of Tierra del Fuego on the edge of the Beagle Channel, there are plenty of activities to keep you occupied. You could take a trip to the Lapataia National Park by train or bus, or visit the small museum, which has informative displays about the original inhabitants and the current population of Tierra del Fuego.

Ushuaia is a duty free port with a reputation for its Argentine chocolates, cheap alcohol and leather goods, as well as a great place to buy souvenirs and presents. There are a host of excellent restaurants available whether for a quick coffee, or for an excellent meal of king crab or an Argentine barbecue.

This afternoon you will make your own way to the port to board *Polar Pioneer* at 1600 (4pm). Our expedition team and Russian crew will welcome you aboard and show you to your cabin. As we set sail down the Beagle Channel, we will settle into shipboard life and enjoy our first meal on board, as the crew set our course for the Falkland Islands.

Days 2 to 3 - Drake Passage

As we sail past Cape Horn, the most southerly point of the American continent, some of us will approach this historic crossing with more than a little trepidation. But despite its reputation, there are many times when the Drake Passage resembles a lake, with lazy Southern Ocean swells rolling under the keel.

Some of us will approach this historic crossing with more than a little trepidation. But despite its reputation, there are many times when the Drake Passage resembles a lake, with lazy Southern Ocean swells rolling under the keel.

PRE-DEPARTURE INFORMATION

The mood on board is definitely casual. At sea we are totally self-sufficient. The days flow by as we travel snugly in our cocoon. A favourite pastime on board is to stand at the stern watching the many seabirds, including majestic albatrosses and giant petrels following in our wake. They rise and fall skillfully, using air currents created by the ship to gain momentum.

During our Drake crossing, we will commence our lecture program on the wildlife, geology, history and geography of the Antarctic Peninsula. Our history lectures will largely be focused on Shackleton. We will be given guidelines for approaching wildlife and talk about the implications of the Antarctic Treaty. Antarctica is a photographers' paradise for professionals and amateur alike.

Nearing the tip of the Peninsula towards the end of day three, excitement reaches fever pitch with everyone on the bridge watching for our first iceberg.

The ocean takes on a whole new perspective once we are below the Antarctic Convergence and are surrounded by the surreal presence of floating ice sculptures. The memory of your first big iceberg sighting is likely to remain with you forever.

Days 4 to 7 - Weddell Sea and Antarctic Peninsula

Depending on the weather, we will first approach Antarctica to the north of King George Island or in narrow channels between the South Shetland Islands. From there we will head through Antarctic Sound to the eastern side of the Peninsula.

A host of choices are now open to us and depending on the ice and weather conditions the eastern side of the Antarctic Peninsula is ours to explore. Our experienced leaders, who have made countless journeys to this area, will use this expertise to design our voyage from day to day. This allows us to make best use of the prevailing weather, ice conditions and wildlife opportunities. Because we are so far south, we will experience approximately 18-20 hours' daylight and the days will be as busy as you wish. There is plenty of time for sleep when you get home!



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We are always keen to explore new territory, so if the opportunity arises, we will! That's why we call our cruises, "Expeditions of Exploration and Adventure" - who knows where we will go?

Once we arrive in the calmer waters of Antarctic Sound, we hope to make landing two to three times a day. To get ashore we will use Zodiacs (inflatable rubber boats). You will have been briefed on the workings of these sturdy craft and their use, during our Drake Passage crossing. Sometimes we will cruise along spectacular ice cliffs, or make contact with whales. In these situations we will appreciate the distinct advantage of being on a small vessel, which gives everyone the opportunity to experience these very special close encounters with wildlife.

Western chefs serve hearty meals in our cosy dining rooms. Accompanied by good conversation, they will become a focal point of our shipboard life.

A sample of the many exciting places that we would like to visit follows:

[Brown Bluff](#)

Situated on the eastern side of Tabarin Peninsula, the spectacular 745-metre promontory of Brown Bluff towers over some 20,000 nesting pairs of Adelie penguins and hundreds of gentoo penguins. Nesting skuas, snow petrels and pintados inhabit the upper slopes and kelp gulls screech overhead. Brown Bluff's volcanic origins have created some fantastically shaped boulders that lie scattered across the ash beach and make colourful nesting sites for some of the penguins.

[Paulet Island](#)

This tiny volcanic island forms the nesting grounds of some 120,000 pairs of Adelie penguins, and the surrounding seas literally teem with penguins!

There is also a blue-eyed shag colony situated at one end of Paulet's long beach front. Leopard seals are often seen cruising offshore, hoping to pick up a penguin snack. Weddell seals sometimes haul out here for a quiet nap on the beach. Apart

from its plentiful wildlife, Paulet is also rich in the history of Antarctic exploration, for it was here that the 22 men of Larsen's ship *Antarctic* arrived on 28 February 1903 after their ship had sunk. The men wintered on Paulet, living on penguins and seals, until eventually Larsen and five of the men rowed across Erebus and Terror Gulf to be reunited with members of Otto Nordenskjold's geological exploration party.

[James Clark Ross Island](#)

Separated from Trinity Peninsula by Prince Gustav Channel, the beaches and rocks of this mighty island are a mix of volcanic and sedimentary; creating a geologists' paradise. The beaches are populated with kelp gulls while Antarctic terns and skuas nest on the island's higher slopes. Many of the island's rocks are decorated with bright red and orange lichens, presenting fantastic photographic opportunities. Ice flows in the surrounding waters provide temporary floating homes for Weddell and leopard seals. We may walk up to Hidden Lake, following a stream rich in fossilised remains of deciduous trees, ferns and even clamshells. If ice conditions and time permit, we may also circumnavigate this fantastic island; a feat not often accomplished.

[Devil Island](#)

This very rarely visited island was named for its two striking peaks or 'horns'. It is the nesting site for some 10,000 pairs of Adelie penguins. If weather conditions permit, we may walk up a scree slope to the top of the island's western peak. A few hundred metres in height, the summit provides superb views into Erebus and Terror Gulf. On the upper slopes we may even see nesting snow petrels and Wilson's storm petrels. For those who are less active, the comings and goings of penguins on the beach and the accompanying skua population provide endless fascination.

There are often large numbers of grounded icebergs off shore that we may cruise among in our Zodiacs.

[View Point, Duse Bay](#)

View Point is one of the few places where we may be able to set foot on the Antarctic continent proper. A British hut was built

Expedition Notes

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here in 1953 and an Argentine refuge hut was established a few years later. In front of the old hut are the remains of crabeater seal carcasses, which provided food for the sledge dogs. Thanks to the cold conditions, the well-preserved hut looks just as it did all those years ago - a fascinating place to get a feeling for the olden days of Antarctic exploration.

Larsen Ice Shelf

Antarctica's most conspicuous geographical feature is ice. Glaciers inch towards the sea from towering mountain peaks and ridges. If conditions permit, we hope to cruise south and along part of the spectacular Larsen Ice Shelf, which runs continuously for some 800 km between Cape Longing and Cape Mackintosh.

In 1995 a massive iceberg measuring 37 km x 36 km calved from the Larsen Ice Shelf and drifted north. We may see some remnants of this spectacular event and perhaps even witness smaller pieces of ice splitting away.

Other places we may visit around the Weddell Sea area and on the eastern side of the Antarctic Peninsula are:

Joinville Island; D'Urville Island; Hope Bay; Seymour Island; Snow Hill Island; Vega Island, Prince Gustav Channel; Beak Island; Crystal Hill; Herbert Sound.

Day 8 - Elephant Island

Today, if weather permits, we set course for Elephant Island, a half-submerged mountain cloaked with an ice sheet at the outer limits of the South Shetlands. En route, our recaps and lectures will resume and there will be time to gather energy for the busy days ahead.

We'll learn the story of Shackleton and hear how his ship, the *Endurance*, was crushed in pack ice in the Weddell Sea, before him and his men climbed into three open boats, spending 16 months at sea, before finally making landfall on this tiny toe of rock and ice in the vastness of the Southern Ocean on 14 April 1916.

As we commemorate the upcoming century of Shackleton's fateful expedition, we plan to sail past Cape Valentine to see

the beach where the men first put ashore nearly 100 years ago. Weather permitting; we hope to follow the coastline six miles west to Point Wild, where the men eventually set up camp under two of their upturned open boats and some old tents.

We will attempt to make at least one landing on historic Elephant Island.

Days 9 to 10 - At Sea

En route for South Georgia we'll head across the Scotia Sea, following the route that Shackleton and five of his men took in order to find help for the rest of their crew.

On 24 April 1916, they piled into the *James Caird*, the most seaworthy of their open boats, to attempt this perilous journey to South Georgia, some 1290 km distant. Shackleton hoped to reach South Georgia in two weeks. There he would enlist the help of the whalers to return to Elephant Island and rescue the men who had been left behind.

We'll enjoy the comfort of our ocean crossing as we ponder the hardships Shackleton and his men experienced as they crawled about on the rocks used as ballast on board *James Caird*:

"Nearly always there were gales. So small was our boat and so great were the seas that often our sail flapped idly in the calm between the crests of two waves. Then we would climb the next slope and catch the full fury of the gale where the wool-like whiteness of the breaking water surged around us."

- Ernest Shackleton

Day 11 to 14 - South Georgia

To us, South Georgia is one of the most beautiful places in the world.

The island is a tiny speck in the South Atlantic Ocean, located in one of the most desolate parts of our planet. A 3,000-metre mountain range traces the spine of this long, narrow island. Between the mountains, shattered glaciers carve their way through tussock grass to the deeply indented coastline.

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Though geographically speaking the island lies in the Subantarctic area, as do the islands of Macquarie and Heard, it has a climate more in keeping with the true Antarctic regions. This is because South Georgia lies near the Antarctic Convergence.

South Georgia is a British possession, having been claimed and named for King George III on 16 January 1775 by Captain James Cook, who records in his journal:

"The wild rocks raised their lofty summits till they were lost in the clouds and the valleys lay buried in everlasting snow. Not a tree or a shrub was to be seen, no, not even big enough to make a toothpick. I landed in three different places, displayed our colours and took possession of the country in His Majesty's name under a discharge of small arms."

- Quote from "Antarctic Housewife" by Nan Brown.

Some of the glorious destinations that we plan to visit in South Georgia are listed below:

Grytviken

Originally a Norwegian sealing and whaling station, it was finally abandoned in 1965. Here we must be careful to avoid stepping on sleeping elephant seals as we skirt the ruins of factory buildings peering into the past, trying to imagine what it was like when whale processing was in full swing.

Abandoned ships lie sunken alongside old wharves, while pitted concrete walls remind us of the more recent Falkland's War, which started here.

Sir Ernest Shackleton died from a heart attack during his final expedition on board the Quest on 6 May 1922. His body was laid to rest at Grytviken and we will make a pilgrimage to visit the cross his men erected in his memory looking out across beautiful Cumberland Bay.

St Andrews Bay

The sandy black beach is a resting place for hundreds of elephant seals that haul out on the shore to molt. Behind the beach, the sight and sound of tens of thousands of king penguins at

different stages of their breeding cycle will be overwhelming. The glacial river that runs into the sea here will be alive with penguin chicks and elephant seal pups testing their aquatic skills. If we lift our gaze from the wildlife for a moment, we will glimpse the snow-capped peaks of some of the world's most spectacular mountains.

Stromness Bay

At 4:00 pm on 20 May 1916, Shackleton, Worsely and Crean arrived here after their arduous 27 km journey across the mountains from King Haakon Bay. As well as examining the ruins of the old whaling station, we may also wander up to the mountains behind the old whaling station to see the waterfall descent that formed the last section of Shackleton's epic journey. We may even get the opportunity to walk from Fortuna Bay across the saddle to the waterfall as Sir Ernest did.

Bay of Isles

One of the wildlife highlights will be visiting the serene wandering albatrosses sitting proudly on their cute downy chicks. We can sit within respectful metres of these gentle birds whilst they perform intimate courtship dances, feed their young or clumsily launch themselves into the air, bound for a fishing trip.

Other stunning wildlife destinations we may visit include: Elsehul Bay, Royal Harbour, Cooper Bay, Drygalski Fjord, Larsen Harbour, Stromness, Salisbury Plains, Gold Harbour, Right Whale Bay, Possession Bay.

Day 15 - Shag Rocks

If time and weather permit, we may pass Shag Rocks, six small islands in the westernmost extremity of South Georgia. The fascinating group of jagged rocky islets protrude from the sea and blue-eyed cormorants fill the air; their precarious nesting sites are white with guano.

Day 16 to 17 - At sea

We begin cruising back towards the Falklands Islands/Malvinas. On this leg we are usually travelling into the prevailing weather so it is difficult to estimate our arrival time in the Falklands. Our

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lecture program will continue and we'll have ample time to enjoy the rest of our time observing the sea birds that follow the ship, whale watching from the bridge, or simply relaxing in the bar with a favourite book.

Day 18 - The Falkland Islands/Malvinas

Polar Pioneer will glide into Port Stanley for our early morning arrival. You have the choice of extending your stay in this very British outpost or continuing directly on this afternoon's flight to Punta Arenas or Santiago. Should you choose to travel on this day, you will be greeted by our local guide who will assist you with the transfer to Mount Pleasant airport for your afternoon flight. Due to possible delays we ask that no onwards flights be booked out of Santiago on this day.

Please Note: If you wish to stay on in Stanley, flights operate once a week on a Saturday and are subject to availability and may involve an additional surcharge.

Optional Activities

Sea Kayaking

Our sea kayaking option is available for up to 10 passengers on this voyage. Exploring by kayak is an ideal way to surround yourself in the sights and sounds of Antarctica and South Georgia. Paddle among icebergs and brash ice, and get up close to wildlife and observe in an unobtrusive manner. Some of our paddles may be longer and on choppier water, so sound experience is required (this can also be gained prior to your expedition).

Paddlers will have the option to kayak as often as possible during the voyage, conditions permitting. If you are interested in our sea kayaking option, please contact our team on +61 2 9252 1033 or email your Reservations Consultant.

Alpine Crossing

On this voyage, a small band of adventurous souls will attempt to repeat the epic crossing of Sir Ernest Shackleton almost 100 years to the day that Shackleton took the journey himself. Trekking for up to three days from King Haakon Bay to Stromness, the crossing distance is 35 to 50 kilometres depending on the route we take.

This is an extreme mountain environment that involves crossing large, heavily crevassed glaciers and alpine passes which must be treated with great caution. Participants therefore require a suitable level of alpine climbing and trekking experience to undertake this activity. Most of the journey is on glaciers and requires travelling with ropes, so knowledge of glacier travel techniques is required. If you are interested in our Alpine Crossing option, please contact our team on +61 2 9252 1033 or email your Reservations Consultant.

Climbing

From easy ascents of snow peaks to more technical routes, a typical climb takes four to 10 hours. There's always the chance we'll make a first ascent. You'll need to be moderately fit, and be able use crampons and an ice axe. Our highly fit, experienced climbers may try more technical routes. This really is a unique and exciting way to experience Antarctica. If you are interested in our Climbing option, please contact our team on +61 2 9252 1033 or email your Reservations Consultant.

Polar Photography Workshops

Antarctica is a photographers dream. Whether it be sitting quietly in the middle of a penguin rookery, visiting quaint historic sites or enjoying the thrill of whale and leopard seal encounters amongst the icebergs, there are an overwhelming number of opportunities to snap to your heart's content. Catering to both amateurs and the more serious photographer, our on board professionals deliver accredited photography workshops and one-on-one instruction from the deck or Zodiacs and during landings. Please register your interest in our Photography Workshops prior to departure by contacting our team on +61 2 9252 1033 or email travel@auroraexpeditions.com.au.



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Documentation

You should always carry your travel insurance policy, emergency card and photocopies of your ID with you during your holiday

Travel insurance

Aurora Expeditions require that you take out a personal travel insurance policy, including emergency evacuation, to cover against sickness, accident, loss of baggage and personal belongings, unexpected alterations to travel arrangements and travel disruption, emergency evacuation, and cancellation.

Aurora Expeditions recommend SureSave travel insurance for Australian travellers. International travellers are required to book travel insurance via a local insurance provider in your home country. To arrange your travel insurance or for more information please contact your dedicated Reservations Consultant or your travel agent.

If you take out an alternative policy, you should check that it provides adequate coverage as above. Please advise Aurora Expeditions of your policy details on your Personal Details Form.

Personal Details Form

You are required to return your Personal Details Form to Aurora Expeditions at least 90 days prior to your voyage departure. Please ensure all information is correct and inform us of any changes that may arise.

Medical Form

Please note your Medical Form is required to be signed by your general practitioner and returned to Aurora Expeditions no later than three months, and no earlier than six months, before your voyage departure date.

If you become aware of any change in your health and fitness that may be likely to affect your participation on the trip (eg pregnancy, mental illness, heart or bronchial disorder, broken limbs, etc.), you should notify us in writing immediately.

Passport

Please ensure that your passport is valid at least 6 months after your date of your return. If you are not an Australian citizen and are returning to Australia after your trip, ensure that you have the necessary resident return visa / re-entry permit from the Department of Immigration.

Visas, Entry Fees & Taxes

Passengers are required to organise their own visas, entry fees and arrival or departure taxes if required for the country you are visiting. We have listed some information on the requirements for the countries you will be visiting, however please check with your Reservations Consultant or travel agent if you are unsure.

Chile

All passengers travelling to Chile with passports from Australia, America and Canada are required to pay a Reciprocity Fee on arrival into Santiago international airport. The fee is not required if entering from an alternate port.

Chile's Reciprocity Fee rates are US\$117 for Australians, US\$131 for Americans and US\$132 for Canadians and are valid for 3 months on a multi-entry basis (Americans are valid until the expiry of the passport). New Zealand, British and European Union passport holders are exempt from Reciprocity Fees.

If travelling on a passport of another country different fees may apply. Please contact your local consulate or visit [HYPERLINK http://chile.travel/en/practical-information/#entering-chile](http://chile.travel/en/practical-information/#entering-chile)

Argentina

Australian and Canadian passengers travelling to Argentina by air, sea or land are required to pay a Reciprocity Fee prior to their arrival into Argentina through all ports. The fee MUST be paid by credit card via the Provincia Net online system prior to arrival into Argentina. Payments will NOT be accepted at the airports or any other border.

The reciprocity rates are US\$100 for Australians and US\$75 for Canadians and are valid for 3 months on a multi-entry

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basis. Passengers are required to have a printed copy of their Reciprocity Fee ID receipt on arrival to clear customs. New Zealand, American, British and European Union passport holders are exempt from Reciprocity Fees.

If travelling on a passport of another country different fees or visas may apply. Please contact your local consulate or call Argentina's National Direction of Migrations on +54 11 4360 7809.

How to pay the Reciprocity Fee online:

- 1) Visit <https://reciprocidad.provincianet.com.ar/> and create an account via the Account Registration form. You will need your passport details to complete the process.
- 2) Complete the Reciprocity Fee by clicking 'Add Form' and completing your correct personal details. Follow the steps to add credit card information and finalise payment.

Please note: the cost may initially appear in Argentinean pesos, but will be charged in US dollars.
- 3) Print the payment receipt and store safely with your passport and travel documents ready for travel.
- 4) The printed receipt must be presented at immigration control to complete immigration procedures. The receipt will be scanned by the immigration officials, the information checked and your entry to the country registered.

Please note: Reciprocity fee details and prices are correct as of January 2017 and are subject to change regularly. Please contact the country of travel's local embassy for entry and visa requirements.

Other destinations

If you are travelling further throughout South America additional airport taxes or visas may apply and are generally required in local currency or US dollars. Your local tour operator or representative will be able to advise of correct requirements as these vary greatly between different cities.

Fitness Requirements

This voyage is suitable for people of a wide range of ages and physical abilities. You are free to participate in whichever activity you choose. Less mobile clients are given the choice to land or not. If they decide to land, there are plenty of willing arms to lean on. If you require special assistance please discuss this with one of our Expedition Experts at time of booking. Passengers on our voyages to Antarctica should be capable of walking up and down the ships gangway – equivalent to walking up and down a steep set of stairs, at times the ship may be pitching and rolling; getting in and out of Zodiacs (inflatable rubber boats) with assistance from our staff; making their way across rock surfaces which can be wet/slippery at times; walking on snow and ice. If you have any questions or concerns please contact our team on +61 2 9252 1033.

Money Matters

Australian dollars are difficult to exchange in South America. We recommend that you take US dollars to exchange in your arrival city. The amount of money you take to spend whilst on board depends on how many non-included alcoholic beverages you expect to drink each day, if you plan to use the internet or laundry service, and if you intend to purchase any souvenirs on board or during our landings.

On board payments

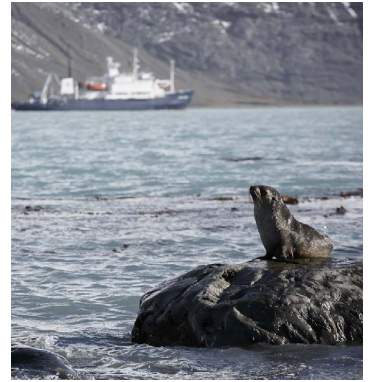
Upon embarkation, a shipboard account is opened for your convenience to pay for any bar, shop or communication expenses you may require. At the end of your voyage your account may be settled in Australian dollars by credit card (Visa, MasterCard or American Express) or in US dollars cash.

Tipping

Tipping is a very personal decision and is at your discretion. Our Russian crew work extremely hard to ensure you have the best possible experience. We recommend US\$10-12 per passenger,

Expedition Notes

IN SHACKLETON'S FOOTSTEPS



per day, in US dollars cash, for equal distribution amongst our 23 Russian crew. Tipping of our expedition team is not required, however if you do wish to acknowledge our hardworking hotel manager and chefs, you can leave any tips in the box at the bar.

Security

Money and valuables should always be stored safely when travelling. Keep your passport with you at all times and do not leave it in your main luggage. You will need it to change money and check into hotels. Where safety deposit boxes are available, we recommend that you use them. We also recommend you keep jewellery and valuables to a minimum when travelling.

Communication

Telephone

The charges for telephone services will be higher than at home. We do not suggest you call from your hotel as they charge their own rates on top of the phone call. You can find public telephone call centres in most major cities and tourist areas, and ask about buying a prepaid calling card when you arrive.

Email

Internet cafes are readily available. Contact your email provider before you leave home, and ask for any suggestions about accessing your emails from abroad.

Mobile phones

Before you leave home contact your mobile phone service provider for details on international roaming, access and rates. Alternatively, if your phone is not locked to a network you can purchase a pre-paid sim card when you arrive in South America.

Emergency

In the event of an emergency please have your relatives or friends contact Aurora Expeditions on +61 2 9252 1033 and we will get the message to you as soon as possible.

On-Board Communication

Email access and phone connection is available on-board *Polar Pioneer*, however rates are very expensive. Check our Expedition Essentials document for further details.

Track My Trip

Aurora Expeditions' complimentary 'Track My Trip' system allows you to keep your friends and family updated on your voyage progress whilst in Antarctica.

Simply subscribe to our 'Track My Trip' service and we will send daily updates of your location to your friends and family via email. They will also be able to check back and follow your map on our website.

You will receive an email with instructions on how to register for 'Track My Trip' approximately four weeks prior to your voyage departure date. If you do not receive an email invitation, please email your full name, email address and the name of your expedition to trackmytrip@auroraexpeditions.com.au.

Suggested Information Resources

Travel and Wildlife apps

If you have a smart phone or tablet device, you can download some great free and paid apps to help you with your holiday planning around South America. Search for them in the App Store for iPhones and iPads or in Google Play for Android devices.

Antarctica & South Georgia

Oceanites by Genwi LLC

The Island of South Georgia by University of Dundee
Antarctic Wildlife Guide (\$10.49) by Oren Meiri Reference.

Argentina

Argentina Guia de Viaje - Argentina Travel Guide by Inprotur
Welcome Argentina Travel Guide By Clarin Global S.A. (\$1.99).

Chile

Chile Travel by servicio Nacional de Turismo Chile
VIVA Travel Guides By Authormob
All ways OK – Punta Arenas.

These trip notes were prepared May 2016. Please re-download closer to your voyage departure in case of any updates or changes.